



**To: Safer & Stronger Thematic Board**

**On: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Report by:  
Director of Community Resources**

## **Community Safety Update**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the board on activities carried out by the Community Safety Hub including Street Stuff and also provides an update on the Building Safer and Greener Communities project through which the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is supporting the Scottish Governments Building Better Communities national initiative to reduce crime and increase community safety in Scotland.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the report.

### **3. Community Safety Hub activities**

- 3.1 The Community Safety Hub had a productive festive period providing a number of services to keep people safe and active. Preparations are also underway for a number of key events in the coming months as outlined below.

#### **2014 Festive Safety Campaign**

- 3.2 The Community Safety Hub provided an extended service to support the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership during the 2014 festive season. These services were funded by the Town Centre Initiative and Alcohol & Drugs Partnership. Analytical information from previous years has shown that Fridays and Saturdays in the run up to Christmas are the dates where this service is most utilised and most effective. Partnership arrangements for 2014 included:

- High visibility patrols with Police and Wardens.



- Taxi marshalling at Gilmour Street, Paisley on key dates throughout the festive period including Christmas Eve and Hogmanay.
- A safe bus accompanied by a paramedic vehicle, which was at New Street from 8pm until 4am on 12, 13, 19 and 20 December 2014. A police officer, warden and paramedics were available at the bus for anyone who was injured, felt threatened or needed safety advice.
- Radio link communications across the partnership co-ordinated in the CCTV control room.
- Street Pastors directing people to the safe bus.

3.3 Over 100 people attended the Safe Bus, with the majority presenting under the influence of alcohol. In general, revellers were well-behaved and welcomed the health and safety advice and utilised the facilities available including bottled water and mobile phone chargers, allowing them to phone taxis. An evaluation of the 2014 Safe Bus established that it was a successful initiative that delivered a number of positive outcomes:

- Providing a safe environment for anyone who may be vulnerable as a result of being intoxicated, injured or separated from their fellow revellers;
- Improving health as attendees could rehydrate by drinking available water;
- Reducing disorder as people were able to get taxis quicker to return home;
- Reducing the number of accident and emergency admissions and ambulance call outs;
- Reducing calls to police to attend minor incidents.

3.4 Given the continued success of the Safe Bus in recent years it is intended this will be repeated in future years.

### **Integrated Inspection of Services for Children and Young People**

3.5 The Community Safety Hub and Street Stuff were inspected as part of the Integrated Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Renfrewshire during January. The visit was led by the Care Inspectorate with support from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland. The inspectors were looking at what services do to:

- Improve outcomes for all children and young people;
- Ensure a high quality of services for children (particularly vulnerable children and young people);
- Engage with young people to help them to improve services and build capacity.



- 3.6 The Inspectors have already attended the Daily Tasking and the Community Safety Hub meetings and are scheduled to visit the Street Stuff Programme during February 2015, when they will see the programme in action engaging and interacting with young people. A full inspection report is scheduled to be published later in 2015. Relevant findings will be brought back to this Board.

#### **Fire Reach**

- 3.7 The Fire Reach programme is delivered through a partnership including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Safety Youth Team. The course targets young people who have come to the attention of the Community Safety Hub through their involvement in fire related offences. This intensive one week course focuses on raising the awareness of participants about the impact of deliberate fire raising and antisocial behaviour and promotes team building. The next course is scheduled to take place during February 2015. Overall, as a result of programmes of this type, the number of fires attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across Renfrewshire continues to reduce.

#### **Safe Kids**

- 3.8 The annual 'Safekids' input to all P6 pupils in Renfrewshire will be delivered throughout the month of March. The programme covers issues such as antisocial behaviour, internet safety, environmental crime, fire safety, knife crime, drugs and alcohol awareness and the use of CCTV. Overall, as a result of programmes of this type, incidents of youth related antisocial behaviour continue to decline year on year, with more than a 70% reduction over the past 6 years.

#### **School Talks**

- 3.9 The Community Safety Youth Team continue to conduct 'School Talks' in all schools in Renfrewshire. Youth Officers advise P7 and S1 school pupils on the impact of antisocial behaviour and raise awareness of diversionary activities such as 'Street Stuff'. School talks operate throughout the school year.

#### **Emissions Testing**

- 3.10 In March, Renfrewshire Wardens Service will undertake a 2 day Vehicle Emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in partnership with Police Scotland and the Council's licensing section. The wardens will check whether vehicle emissions are within legal requirements. Licensing Officers will also inspect taxis and private-hire vehicles.

### **4. Street Stuff**

#### **Festive Football**

- 4.1 During the Christmas holidays, Street Stuff hosted a festive football programme for girls and boys aged 10-18 at St Mirren's indoor dome. There were 9 sessions of football that took place in the evenings from 22 December – 3 January which were attended by over 400 young people. This was an improved turnout for the festive football programme when compared to its inaugural event last year. As



the success of the event continues to grow, it is intended to schedule the festive football programme again for 2015.

#### **Street Stuff Evaluation Follow Up**

- 4.2 Board members will be aware that an independent evaluation of the Street Stuff programme was undertaken by the University of the West of Scotland during 2014. As a follow up, Social Work students from the University conducted a two week observation placement during January 2015. The students were shown how Street Stuff links into Social Work in practice and wrote a report on understanding poverty, inequality and discrimination. The report will be used by Street Stuff for further evaluation and development purposes.

#### **Bank of Scotland Midnight League**

- 4.3 Street Stuff is joining the Bank of Scotland Midnight League which is a national network of five-a-side football. Scottish FA coaches run the sessions at local sports centres and other venues, usually on Friday and Saturday evenings, with teams competing in weekly leagues. This joint working initiative will allow Street Stuff to operate extra football sessions 5 nights a week for a 12 week period.

### **5. Building Safer and Greener Communities Update**

- 5.1 At the last round of meetings, the Safer and Stronger and the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Boards agreed to jointly work on 2 projects focussed on Ferguslie Park / Phoenix and Johnstone Town Centres.
- 5.2 Since then the Director of Communities at the Scottish Government has written to the Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive looking for formal agreement to work with the Building Safer Communities National Programme as one of 7 initial locations across Scotland. It is clear from this invitation that the work of the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership in promoting community safety and public protection is emerging as a 'best practise' exemplar.
- 5.3 The primary advantage for the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership in participating in the national programme, is a greater profile for the area nationally that reflects positively on the work of the Partnership to build capacity and strengthen communities. Longer term this focus, which will also, necessarily, shine a spotlight on the issues of poverty and deprivation that are being tackled by the Partnership, should serve to strengthen the case being made for a fairer deal for Renfrewshire nationally.
- 5.4 To take this forward a meeting is being arranged between the Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive and members of the National Building Safer Communities Programme Board to discuss the local project further, and the nature of the assistance that the national programme could offer Renfrewshire.



*Oliver Reid*  
*Interim Head of Public Protection*  
*Renfrewshire Council*  
*0141 618 7352 - [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)*